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H – 914

International Court of Justice

H0914 – 0001

H0914-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL, DATED 13 MARCH, 1946.

~~Wednesday~~ Monday, 27 May, 1946.

COMMISSIONERS:

Captain Tubridy
Mr. Rasumov

THE SS

(TheCommission convened at 1000 hours)

ROBERT BRILL, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q Does the witness understand that he is still under oath?

A Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION.

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q I want to ask you a few more questions about the details of your service with the Leibstandarte. You told us that you served with the Leibstandarte until December 1939, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q In what unit of the Leibstandarte were you serving then?

A At first I served in the 3rd Company, then the 6th company and then beginning with 1936, or possibly 1935, I served .....

Q I am only interested in your service from the outbreak of the war.

A I served at that time with the staff of the Leibstandarte in Berlin in the personnel department and particularly in the Recruiting Department for the Leibstandarte.

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Q Were you serving in action between the first of September and December in 1939?

A No, I was only in the service or recruiting work for the Leibstandarte.

Q You told us you served with them in action from June until August, 1941?

A Yes, front service of the Leibstandarte.

Q Can you tell us the exact date in June you joined the unit in action in the field?

A In the beginning of June - either the 4th or the 5th - I joined the Leibstandarte in the field. It was then stationed at Bruenn.

Q With what particular unit of the Leibstandarte, did you serve from June until August, 1941.

A I was with Department 1-B, which is tools, armour and fuel.

Q What rank did you hold?

A In 1941 I was Hauptsturmfuehrer.

Q In what division was the Leibstandarte serving at that time?

A I do not understand the question as the Leibstandarte was an independent unit.

Q Was it not under the command of some higher formation?

A I am not quite certain whether it was the army district or the supreme headquarters of the Army. Army Kleist was the army under which I served.

Q Will you give me the name of the commander of the Leibstandarte during that period.

A Sepp Dietrich.

Q You told us that you were also serving with them in the field from

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March, 1945 until the 8th of May, 1945?

A That cannot be corrected, it was either from January until the beginning of February, 1945 until May 8, 1945.

Q In what capacity were you serving during that period?

A Likewise, as ordnance officer.

Q Holding what rank?

A Obersturmbannfuehrer.

Q Was the division then an independant division, or was it under command of some higher formation?

A It stood under the command of the 6th SS Army, which was under the command of Sepp Dietrich.

Q Did the Leibstandarte receive conscript recruits after the end of 1941 or were all recruits for the Leibstandarte volunteers?

A Starting with 1942, or certainly with 1943, there were also conscripts in the Leibstandarte and not only volunteers.

Q Can you say approximately the number of conscript recuits that joined the Leibstandarte between 1942 and the end of the war?

A I can make only two definite statements. In March, 1943 there came 2,000 conscripts to the Leibstandarte; when I served actively with the Leibstandarte approximately 1,000 conscripts joined the Leibstandarte from the Navy and did not volunteer for the Leibstandarte. Even in the meantime, between 1943 and 1945 conscripts joined the Leibstandarte, but I am in no position to give the exact number.

Q I want to ask you a few questions about the figures you gave us the last time that you gave evidence. You gave us the total figures for the years 1940 to 1944.

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A The Recruiting figure?

Q The total figure - you gave me the approximate total figures. I want it to be clearly understood it was total figures. I take it that the figures were the total figure for the year and do not include the number of recruits secured for each year?

A It is not quite clear. I gave approximate figures, which I kept in mind from statistical figures about the strength of the force. For instance, 550,000 relates to the end of 1944 and not the beginning of 1944, however, the figure 100,000 to 150,000, which I gave for 1940 related to the beginning of the year and not the end of the year.

Q Perhaps we can take the figures again. Am I right in saying that at the beginning of 1940 the total strength was 100,000?

A Yes.

Q That during the course of that year you had 50,000 re-enforcements?

A Yes.

Q The figure you gave of 150,000 for 1941, was that at the beginning of 1941?

A Yes.

Q During 1941 you received 70,000 reenforcements?

A Yes.

Q At the beginning of 1942, was your total statement between 200,000 and 250,000?

A Yes.

Q During the course of 1942, you had 110,000 reenforcements?

A Yes.

Q At the beginning of 1943, did you say that you had between 350,000 and 400,000?

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A No, not at the beginning of the year, but somewhat later.

Q Will you give me a figure as to the total strength at the beginning of 1943?

A No, I am not in a position to do so. The figures which I have given are approximate figures, which I remember in connection with certain dates.

Q Can you give me a figure for the total strength at the beginning of 1944?

A It must have been between 400,000 and 450,000. I would like to stress that all divisions were reinforced around the turn of the year, so these are really only approximate figures.

Q I understood from what you said when you started telling us about the figures, your figure of 550,000 was the total at the end of 1944 or the beginning of 1945?

A Yes.

Q Do those figures of totals include the wounded?

A In which totals?

Q In the total strength you have given us are you including the wounded?

A No. I have not included them but I suppose that a number of wounded were included. I only can give a total figure of all fatalities.

Q You gave us a total of 200,000 killed and missing?

A Yes, up until 1944.

Q Do you mean including 1944?

A That figure is based on November, or possibly October, 1944.

Q Can you tell me the total wounded up to 1944 - the end of 1944?

A We counted all the most severely wounded and I could give you only the figure relating to the most severely wounded cases, which were hospitalized

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and could not be used for foreign service anymore. This I can give you.

Q If you will.

A 120,000 and maybe 2,000 or 3,000 less.

Q May I take it that the figures of the yearly totals you have given us do not include either the figure of 200,000 that were killed or 120,000 severely wounded.

A The 200,000 men killed would not be included, but I cannot make any definite statement in regard to the 120,000, as I do not know which methods of counting were used at various times. In general, it is very difficult to compare the annual figures because they are only based on statistical reports.

Q I want to ask you about the officer reinforcements or replacements?

A Will you kindly explain the question.

Q You told us about the total number of reinforcements of recruits or replacements, now I want to ask you about the officer replacement.

A I cannot give you any figures as the list of officers was in another office.

Q You told us that the officers in the Waffen SS were managed and controlled by the SS headquarters.

A I cannot recollect having made any statement of that kind.

Q Regarding their appointments and promotions?

A I did not make any statement on that.

Q Am I right in saying that the appointment and promotion of officers in the SS was controlled bythe SS headquarters.

A Through the personnel headquarters.

Q Were the official recruits for the Waffen SS volunteers?

A I was concerned only with the technicalities of the duties of the officers, while all the actual work was done by the personnel office of the SS. The Personnel

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Headquarters gave us the names of the conscripts and we simply called them to duty. I do know that among the conscripts there were men drafted on the basis of their technical skill.

Q You are talking of officers?

A Yes.

Q Then, it would be right to say that the majority of officers in the Waffen SS throughout the war were volunteers?

A I assume that the relationship was the same as with the enlisted men. There was not a large majority of men, but a majority of men who were volunteers.

Q Prior to the war, officers for the SS were trained in the SS training schools, were they not?

A Since I joined the Ergaenzungstruppe not before 1940, I would not be in a position to make any statements on this.

Q Were all officers joining the Waffen SS during the war subject to training in the Waffen SS training establishments?

A I would not be in a position to give the exact answer. I take the liberty of asking that you consult a witness from the personnel office.

Q Have you seen any documents connected with the figures you have told us about since the 8th of May, 1945?

A No, I was since then in a camp.

Q Or since the time that you joined the Leibstandarte in the field in February of 1945?

A No, I was then concerned only with active duty.

Q Since you have been in custody, have you been in the company of any other persons having knowledge of the figures of the Waffen SS.

A Unfortunately no, for if I had, I would be in a position to give more

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exact figures.

Q We take it that the figures you have given us in the course of this evidence are figures which you have remembered.

A Yes, since I have been connected for four years and gave reports on this material repeatedly, I am well informed about it.

Q Have you given any reports on these figures since you have been in custody?

A No, to whom should I have given them. I have only been in conversation with my lawyer repeatedly.

Q You have notes there. Are they notes of the figures which you have given us?

A No, they are figures relating to the divisions we had.

Q (Perhaps I might see the notes.)

(The witness hands the notes to Colonel Jones.)

Q You said the last time that you gave evidence that after 1940 you received applications from volunteers who had no inner convictions and subsequently handed in complaints.

A Yes.

Q What were the nature of those complaints and what were they about?

A Many complained that they joined the SS not by inner conviction but by compulsion. Those complaints came from parents in particular for no parent's permission was necessary after 1943 and a person of seventeen years or older could join the Waffen SS.

Q What were the complaints about? Why did the parents complain?

A The parents complained that the boys had been drafted to the SS. It was well known, or at least the parents thought that the SS suffered high

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losses in particular.

Q Did you receive complaints from both volunteers and conscripts?

A Yes from both, but of course the majority from draftees or conscripts.

Q Did you ever receive a complaint of the methods employed by any unit of the Waffen SS during the course of the fighting?

A No, such matters did not reach us. We received complaints about the conscription and the method applied.

Q Neither the officers or other ranks ever complained about the actions of the Waffen SS soldiers in battle?

A Not to me.

Q Or of the practises in the occupied territories, whether actually in or out of battle?

A No, the only kind of complaint we received was that a commander felt his troops were not employed correctly, but I cannot answer that as I can report only the facts and not pass any judgment on it.

Q Do you know of the activities of what was called the Einsatzkommando?

A I heard the word "Einsatzkommando" only here.

Q Did you ever receive complaints from officers or other ranks, volunteers or conscripts, of the activities of the Einsatzkommando?

A I never heard about it.

Q Or of the slaughter of Jews in the occupied eastern territory?

A No.

Q Or of orders that the officers or men were given with respect to the treatment of Jews and the population of the occupied territories in the east?

A No. As a matter of course I knew that Jews were concentrated at Theresienstadt and were evacuated from Germany.

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Q I was not addressing this to you personally. I am seeking information as to whether or not the Waffen SS troops, officers or men, ever did complain about these things?

A No.

Q Did you yourself when you served with the Leibstandarte in Russia in 1941 know of the xxx slaughter of Jews?

A No.

Q Did you know that the population of Poland and Russian were taken into captivity for forced labor?

A No, at that time they did not have any forced labor.

Q Did you ever receive any form of complaint from the Waffen SS troops in the Proctectorates of Bohemia and Monravia?

A No.

Q Or of the number of executions they were being ordered to carry out?

A The first knowledge I gained was in the camp when I heard either through the wireless or press from the court of Nurnburg.

BY MR. QUATRE:

Q Will you tell me the duration of the enlistment in theWaffen SS?

A The enlistment was for the duration of the war, for four years, four and one half years, five years and a few for twelve years, but that refers only to non-commissioned men.

Q Does the witness know of the Das Reich SS Panzer Division?

A I only know the name, I did not serve in it.

Q Was it a SS formation.

A Yes.

Q When was the division organized?

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A In 1940.

Q Does the witness know in which field the division was in battle?

A In the west and in the east.

Q Does the witness know in 1944 this division was in France?

A I am not certain about it, but I think so.

Q Does the witness know that this division was very sadly famous in France?

A That it was famous, I know - that it was notorious I do not know.

Q Does the witness know of the destruction of towns and villages in France made by this Division.

A It may have happened as a consequence of the actions of war.

Q The question was, do you know?

A No.

BY COLONEL SMIRNOV:

Q I would like you to tell me exactly when you did serve in Russia?

A From June 11 to August 28, 1941.

Q Then you returned to Germany?

A Yes.

Q You were a member of the Leibstandarte?

A Yes.

Q You served in the south of Russian.

A No, I served only until we got to Rostov. It was the last place. I was in Kiernek.

Q What do you know about Otto Ollendorf?

A Ollendorf was a member of the Reichsicherheitshauptamt. I do not know the first name.

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Q You got in contact with Otto Ollendorf at the eastern front?

A No.

Q Are you informed about the Einsatzgruppe D?

A No.

Q Are you informed of the mass actions in the southern towns of Russia?

A Until recently, I did not know anything about it, but recently I learned about it through the proceedings of the Tribunal in Nurnburg.

Q Were you for the second time at the eastern front?

A I was at the Hungarian front from the end of January, 1945 until May, 1945, but in May we were not in Hungary but in Austria.

Q When you were at the eastern front for the first time were you stationed near the Division Viking?

A Yes.

Q You were quite close to the division, were you not?

A At ~~the~~ one time I can remember that the division was quite close to us.

Q Do you know that the Division Viking committed many crimes on the eastern front?

A No.

Q Do you know for what purpose the Division Prinz Eugen was organized?

A The purpose of the Division Prinz Eugen was to correct the so-called conditions in the SS division in the south eastern part of Europe.

Q Could you tell us the nature of the activities of that division?

A No.

Q Do you know about the atrocities which that division committed?

A No. The only thing which I learned from conversation was that it was engaged in frequent fighting with the partisans.

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Q Do you know that that division killed a total of 50,000 hostages?

A No.

Q Do you know that Division D received its recruits from the Prinz Eugen Division.

A No, I stated once before that I know nothing about that.

Q Where did you send the guard troops that had served at the Concentration Camps?

A I don't understand the question.

Q Where did you send those soldiers that had guarded the concentration camps?

A In accordance with an agreement with the office called Inspection of Concentration Camps we sent them to certain concentration camps, from there they were sent in accordance with instructions of their inspectors to definite place.

Q Do you know whether the German concentration camp is a conpentration camp at Saxenhausen?

A Yes, Saxenhausen is one of them.

Q Was that station at Saxenhausen a command to which later were ordered all soldiers who had served as guards of concentration camps?

A Yes, it was so called the Inspektion of Concentration Camps.

Q Do you know about the Einsatzkommandos which were formed in addition to the four Einsatzkommando for the purpose of guarding the prisoner of war camps - the Prisoner of War Camps in which mass murders were committed?

~~MXXERXXFKLGKMANN:~~

DR. PELCKMANN: I have an objection against that question to the witness in regard to the Einsatzkommando group and Einsatzkommando as the witness has already stated that he learned about this group only through

H0914 - 0015

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newspaper and radio reports.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The witness is being asked if he knows about these organizations. I think he can state if he knows about them.

DR. PELCKMANN: He stated before that he has no knowledge about them.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: You may proceed, Colonel Smirnov, so that the witness may tell us about these organizations of the SS.

BY COLONEL SMIRNOV:

Q Were you requested by the concentration camps at Saxenhausen in November or December of 1941, or later, to send more soldiers there?

A No.

BY COLONEL BROOKHART:

Q In what capacity was Berger associated with the department to which you were associated?

A There was the so-called Hauptamtschef and that was his position.

Q Do I understand that you were with the Hauptamtschef?

A No directly, between us both was the SS and the SS Amtschef.

Q Would the figures given by Berger as to membership in the SS - the status of members whether voluntary or drafted - be figures you would accept?

A I have to express myself very carefully but at the time he was Hauptamtschef, he was rather boastful. I do not want to have that considered as a political remark in relationship to Berger, but I do want to clarify the situation.

Q I am not interested in his personality, only if he would be credible in the figures he would give.

A In all probability the figures given by Berger would be somewhat higher than the cocrect onces. I may state that all figures of recruiting were received by Berger from me. Whenever he desired any figures for The

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Reichsfuehrer, he called me as he knew I would have the exact figures.

Q In other words Berger received correct figures from you?

A Yes.

Q In your opinion he might exaggerate in stating those figures?

A No exactly, but half exactly.

Q Do you know what proportion of the Gestapo and the Criminal Police were also under the SS?

A No, I am sorry I don't know.

DR. PELCKMANN: May I ask a question?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes, go ahead.

BY DR. PELCKMANN:

Q Whenever you received complaints, they referred to the recruiting and methods of recruiting in the SS?

A Yes.

Q Was it your business to accept these complaints on matters relating to the action of the SS groups if the field atrocities they were ordered to commit and other actions in the field?

A No, this was not my business.

Q Did it happen that such complaints reached you and were forwarded to you from another office or was the structure of the SS so that such complaints never would have reached you at all.

A Such complaints did not reach us at all and were directed by the SS Hauptamtschef connected with that kind of complaints.

Com.
Take 1-Pg. 16
Meehan
27 May

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of ROBERT BRILL, taken on 27 May, 1946.

Alice Meehan
Reporter (pp 1-16)

Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F. Nubrick
Commissioner

Rasumov.
Commissioner.

(RECESS)

H0914-0019

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Monday, 27 May, 1946.

COMMISSIONERS:

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(The Commission convened at 1000 hours)

ROBERT BRILL, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q Does the witness understand that he is still under oath?

A Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION.

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q I want to ask you a few more questions about the details of your service with the Leibstandarte. You told us that you served with the Leibstandarte until December 1939 is that correct?

A Yes.

Q In what unit of the Leibstandarte were you serving then?

A At first I served in the 3rd Company, then the 6th company and then beginning with 1936, or possibly 1935, I served....

Q I am only interested in your service from the outbreak of the war.

A I served at that time with the staff of the Leibstandarte in Berlin in the personnel department and particularly in the Recruiting Department for the Leibstandarte.

Q Were you serving in action between the first of September and December in 1939?

A No, I was only in the service or recruiting work for the Leibstandarte.

Q You told us you served with them in action from June until August, 1941?

A Yes, front service of the Leibstandarte.

Q Can you tell us the exact date in June you joined the unit in action in the field?

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A In the beginning of June - either the 4th or the 5th - I joined the Leibstandarte in the field. It was then stationed at Bruenn.

Q With what particular unit of the Leibstandarte, did you serve from June until August, 1941.

A I was with Department 1-B, which is tools, armour and fuel.

Q What rank did you hold?

A In 1941 I was Hauptsturmfuehrer.

Q In what division was the Leibstandarte serving at that time?

A I do not understand the question as the Leibstandarte was an independent unit.

Q Was it not under the command of some higher formation?

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Q Will you give me the name of the commander of the Leibstandarte during that period.

A Sepp Dietrich.

Q You told us that you were also serving with them in the field from March, 1945 until the 8th of May, 1945?

A That cannot be corrected, it was either from January until the beginning of February, 1945 until May 8, 1945.

Q In what capacity were you serving during that period?

A Likewise, as a battle officer.

Q Holding what rank?

A Obersturmbahnfuehrer.

Q Was the division then an independant division or was it under command of some higher formation?

A It stood under the command of the 6th SS Army, which was under the command of Sepp Dietrich.

Q Did the Leibstandarte receive conscript recruits after the end of 1941 or were all recruits for the Leibstandarte volunteers?

A Starting with 1942, or certainly with 1943, there were also conscripts in the Leibstandarte and not only volunteers.

Q Can you say approximately the number of conscript recruits that joined the Leibstandarte between 1942 qnd the end of the war?

H0914-0021

A I can make only two definite statements. In March, 1943 there came 2,000 conscripts to the Leibstandarte; when I served actively with the Leibstandarte approximately 1,000 conscripts joined the Leibstandarte from the Navy and did not volunteer for the Leibstandarte. Even in the meantime, between 1943 and 1945 conscripts joined the Leibstandarte, but I am in no position to give the exact number.

Q I want to ask you a few questions about the figures you gave us the last time that you gave evidence. You gave us the total figures for the years 1940 to 1944.

H0914-0022

A The Recruiting figure?

Q The total figure -- you gave methe approximate total figures. I want it to be clearly understood it was total figures. I take it that the figures were the total figure for the year and do not include the number of recruits secured for each year?

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Q Perhaps we can take the figures again. Am I right in saying that at the beginning of 1940 the total strength was 100,000?

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Q That during the course of that year you had 50,000 reinforcements?

A Yes.

Q The figure you gave of 150,000 for 1941, was that at the beginning of 1941?

A Yes.

Q During 1940 you received 70,000 reinforcements?

A Yes.

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Q During the course of 1942, you had 110,000 reinforcements?

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Q I understood from what you said when you started telling us about the figures, your figure of 550,000 was the total at the end of 1944 or the beginning of 1945?

A Yes.

Q Do those figures of totals include the wounded?

A In which totals?

Q In the total strength you have given us are you including the wounded?

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A 120,000 and maybe 2,000 or 3,000 less.

Q May I take it that the figures of the yearly totals you have given us do not include either the figure of 200,000 that were killed or 120,000 severely wounded?

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Q I want to ask you about the officer reinforcements or replacements?

A Will you kindly explain the question.

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Q You told us about the total number of reinforcements of recruits or replacements, now I want to ask you about the officer replacement.

A I cannot give you any figures as the list of officers was in another office.

Q You told us that the officers in the Waffen SS were managed and controlled by the SS headquarters.

A I cannot recollect having made any statement of that kind.

Q Regarding their appointments and promotions?

A I did not make any statement on that.

Q Am I right in saying that the appointment and promotion of officers in the SS was controlled by the SS headquarters.

A Through the personnel headquarters.

Q Were the official recruits for the Waffen SS volunteers?

A I was concerned only with the technicalities of the duties of the officers, while all the actual work was done by the personnel office of the SS. The Personnel

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Headquarters gave us the names of the conscripts and we simply called them to duty, I do know that among the conscripts there were men drafted on the basis of their technical skill.

Q You are talking of officers?

A Yes.

Q Then, it would be right to say that the majority of officers in the Waffen SS throughout the war were volunteers?

A I assume that the relationship was the same as with the enlisted men. There was not a large majority of men, but a majority of men who were volunteers.

Q Prior to the war, officers for the SS were trained in the SS training schools, were they not?

A Since I joined the Ergaenzungstruppe not before 1940, I would not be in a position to make any statements on this.

Q Were all officers joining the Waffen SS during the war subject to training in the Waffen SS training establishments?

A I would not be in a position to give the exact answer. I take the liberty of asking that you consult a witness from the personnel office.

Q Have you seen any documents connected with the figures you have told us about since the 8th of May, 1945?

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Q Or since the time that you joined the Leibstandarte in the field in February of 1945?

A No, I was then concerned only with active duty.

Q Since you have been in custody, have you been in the company of any other persons having knowledge of the figures of the Waffen SS?

A Unfortunately no, for if I had, I would be in a position to give moreexact figures.

Q We take it that the figures you have given us in the course of this evidence are figures which you have remembered.

A Yes, since I have been connected for four years and gave reports on this material repeatedly, I am well informed about it.

Q Have you given any reports on these figures since you have been

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in custody?

A No, to whom should I have given them. I have only been in conversation with my lawyer repeatedly.

Q You havenotes there. Are they notes of the figures which you have given us?

A No, they are figures relating to the divisions we had.

Q (Perhaps I might see the notes).

(The witness hands the notes to Colonel Jones.)

Q You said the last time that you gave evidence that after 1940 you received applications from volunteers who had no inner convictions and subsequently handed in complaints.

A Yes.

Q What were the nature of those complaints and what were they about?

A Many complained that they joined the SS not by inner conviction but by compulsion. Those complaints came from parents in particular for no parent's permission was necessary after 1943 and a person of seventeen years or older could join the Waffen SS.

Q What were the complaints about? Why did the parents complain?

A The parents complained that the boys had been drafted to the SS. It was well known, or at least the parents thought that the SS suffered high losses in particular.

Q Did you receive complaints from both volunteers and conscripts?

A Yes from both, but of course the majority from draftees or conscripts.

Q Did you ever receive a complaint of the methods employed by any unit of the Waffen SS during the course of the fighting?

A No, such matters did not reach us. We received complaints about the conscription and the method applied.

Q Neither the officers or other ranks ever complained about the actions of the Waffen SS soldiers in battle?

A Not to me.

Q Or of the practises in the occupied territories, whether actually in or out of battle?

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A No, the only kind of complaint we received was that a commander felt his troops were not employed correctly, but I cannot answer that as I can report only the facts and not pass any judgment on it.

Q Do you know of the activities of what was called the Einsatzkommando?

A I heard the word "Einsatzkommando" only here.

Q Did you ever receive complaints from officers or other ranks, volunteers or conscripts, of the activities of the Einsatzkommando?

A I never heard about it.

Q Or of the slaughter of Jews in the occupied eastern territory?

A No.

Q Or of orders that the officers or men were given with respect to the treatment of Jews and the population of the occupied territories in the east?

A No. As a matter of course I knew that Jews were concentrated at Theresienstadt and were evacuated from Germany.

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Q I was not addressing this to you personally. I am seeking information as to whether or not the Waffen SS troops, officers or men, ever did complain about these things?

A No.

Q Did you yourself when you served with the Leibstandarte in Russia in 1941 know of the slaughter of Jews?

A No.

Q Did you know that the population of Poland and Russia were taken into captivity for forced labor?

A No, at that time they did not have any forced labor.

Q Did you ever receive any form of complaint from the Waffen SS troops in the Proctectorates of Bohemia and Monrovia?

A No.

Q Or of the number of executions they were being ordered to carry out?

A The first knowledge I gained was in the camp when I heard either through the wireless or press from the court of Nurnberg.

BY MR. QUATRE:

Q Will you tell me the duration of the enlistment in the Waffen SS?

A The enlistment was for the duration of the war, for four years, four and one half years, five years and a few for twelve years, but that refers only to non-commissioned men.

Q Does the witness know of the Das Reich SS Panzer Division?

A I only know the name, I did not serve in it.

Q Was it a SS formation.

A Yes.

Q When was the division organized?

A in 1940.

Q Does the witness know in which field the division was in battle?

A In the west and in the east.

Q Does the witness know in 1944 this division was in France?

A I am not certain about it, but I think so.

Q Does the witness know that this division was very sadly famous in France?

A That it was famous, I know - that it was notorious Ido not know.

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Q Does the witness know of the destruction of towns and villages in France made by this Division.

A It may have happened as a consequence of the actions of war.

Q The question was, do you know?

A No.

BY COLONEL SMIRNOV:

Q I would like you to tell me exactly when you did serve in Russia?

A From June 11 to August 28, 1941.

Q Then you returned to Germany?

A Yes.

Q You were a member of the Leibstandarte?

A Yes.

Q You served in the south of Russia.

A No, I served only until we got to Rostov. It was the last place. I was in Kiernek.

Q What do you know about Otto Ollendorf?

A Ollendorf was a member of the Reichsicherheitshauptamt. I do not know the first name.

Q You got in contact with Otto Ollendorf at the eastern front?

A No.

Q Are you informed about the Einsatzgruppe D?

A No.

Q Are you informed of the mass actions in the southern towns of Russia?

A Until recently, I did not know anything about it, but recently I learned about it through the proceedings of the Bribunal in Nurnberg.

Q Were you for the second time at the eastern front?

A I was at the Hungarian front from the end of January, 1945 until May, 1945, but in May we were not in Hungary but in Austria.

Q When you were at the eastern front for the first time were you stationed near the Division Viking?

A Yes.

Q You were quite close to the division, were you not?

A At one time I can remember that the division was quite close to us.

Q Do you know that the Division Viking committed many crimes on the eastern front?

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A No.

Q Do you know for what purpose the Division Prinz Eugen was organized?

A The purpose of the Division Prinz Eugen was to correct the so-called conditions in the SS Division in the south eastern part of Europe.

Q Could you tell us the nature of the activities of that division?

A No.

Q Do you know about the atrocities which that division committed?

A No. The only thing which I learned from conversation was that it was engaged in frequent fighting with the partisans.

Q Do you know that that division killed a total of 50,000 hostages?

A No.

Q Do you know that Division D received its recruits from the Prinz Eugen Division.

A No, I stated once before that I know nothing about that.

Q Where did you send the guard troops that had served at the Concentration Camps?

A I don't understand the question.

Q Where did you send those soldiers that had guarded the concentration camps?

A In accordance with an agreement with the office called Inspection of Concentration Camps we sent them to certain concentration camps, from there they were sent in accordance with instructions of their inspectors to definite place.

Q Do you know whether the German concentration camp is a concentration camp at Saxenhausen?

A Yes, Saxenhausen is one of them.

Q Was that station at Saxenhausen a command to which later were ordered all soldiers who had served as guards of concentration camps?

A Yes, it was so called the Inspektion of Concentration Camps.

Q Do you know about the Einsatzkommandos which were formed in addition to the four Einsatzkommando for the purpose of guarding the prisoner of war camps - the Prisoner of War Camps in which mass murders were committed?

DR. PELCKMANN: I have an objection against that question to the witness in regard to the Einsatzkommando group and Einsatwkommando as the witness has already stated that he learned about this group only through

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DR. PELCKMANN: I have no objection against that question to the witness in regard to the Einsatzkommando group and Einsatzkommando as the witness has already stated that he learned about this group only through

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newspaper and radio reports.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The witness is being asked if he knows about these organizations. I think he can state if he knows about them.

DR. PELCKMANN: He stated before that he has no knowledge about them.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: You may proceed, Colonel Smirnov, so that the witness may tell us about these organizations of the SS.

BY COLONEL SMIRNOV:

Q Were you requested by the concentration camps at Saxenhausen in November or December of 1941, or later, to send more soldiers there?

A No.

BY COLONEL BROOKHART:

Q In what capacity was Berger associated with the department to which you were associated?

A There was the so-called Hauptamtschef and that was his position.

Q Do I understand that you were with the Hauptamtschef?

A No directly, between us both was the SS and the SS Amtschef.

Q Would the figures given by Berger as to membership in the SS - the status of members whether voluntary or drafted - be figures you would accept?

A I have to express myself very carefully but at the time he was Hauptamtschef, he was rather boastful. I do no want to have that considered as a political remark in relationship to Berger, but I do want to clarify the situation.

Q I am not interested in his personality, only if he would be credible in the figures he would give.

A In all probability the figures given by Berger would be somewhat higher than the correct ones. I may state that all figures of recruiting were received by Berger from me. Whenever he desired any figures for the Reichsfuehrer, he called me as he knew I would have the exact figures.

Q In other words Berger received correct figures from you?

A Yes.

Q In your opinion he might exaggerate in stating those figures?

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A Not exactly, but half exactly.

Q Do you know what proportion of the Gestapo and the Criminal Police were also under the SS?

A No, I am sorry I don't know.

DR. PELCKMANN: May I ask a question?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes, go ahead.

BY DR PELCKMANN:

Q Whenever you received compalints, they referred to the recruiting and methods of recruiting in the SS?

A Yes.

Q Was it your business to accept these complaints on matters relating to the action of the SS groups if the field atrocities they were ordered to commit and other actions in the field.

A No, this was not my business.

Q Did it happen that such complaints reached you and were forwarded to you from another office or was the structure of the SS so that such complaints never would have reached you at all.

A Such complaints did not reach us at all and were directed by the SS Hauptamtschef connected with that kind of complaints.

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of ROBERT BRILL, taken on 27 May, 1946.

Alice Meehan
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F Tubridy
Commissioner

Rasumov
Commissioner.

(Recess)